



# Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

February 1980

Volume 24, No. 5

## FBA Meeting

Monday

February 25

8 p.m.

St. Paul's Parish House

2430 K St., N.W.

Betty Ann Kane

## Councilmember at-Large and Longtime Activist to Speak

by John Landgraf

As everyone knows, 1980 is a political year, and the February 25 Foggy Bottom Association meeting will shift from its earlier concern with city administration to a focus where politics and city administration actively meet. As all FBA members know, the meeting will take place in the auditorium of St. Paul's Church, 2430 K Street, beginning at 8:00 p.m., with coffee available during a mid-meeting break.

The speaker will be Betty Ann Kane, Councilmember-at-Large for the District of Columbia, one of our elected representatives who is not up for re-election this year, but one who knows the political scene and is willing to comment on it, as well as on her concerns with problems of city administration important to Foggy Bottom.

On the City Council, Mrs. Kane serves as a member of three committees, Finance and Revenue, Judiciary and Public Safety, and Government Operations. She also is one of the two Council representatives to the Regional Council of Governments, where she serves on COG's committee on Economic Development. And there are also some six other District boards and associations where she plays an active role.



She came to Washington, to Capitol Hill, in the late sixties, fresh from her fellowships and Master's degree in English literature at Yale, after her Phi Beta Kappa at Middlebury College. She was Director of Public Programs at the expanding Folger Library, on the staff of the Museum of African Art, and served as an Assistant Professor at Catholic University, as well as in the League of Women Voters and in Democratic Party politics.

On the Hill she was constantly involved in neighborhood activities: the Capitol Hill East Children's Center, the Capitol Hill Action Group (on housing and displacement) and the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. She also found time to write and publish a book, *The Widening Circle*, and with attorney husband Noel Kane she has produced two children, Jessica (12) and Justin (9) who attend Region IV Middle School at Watkins Elementary public school.

In 1974, she won election as an At-Large Member of the D.C. School Board, where she served over the years on committees on Finance, Student Services, Community Development and Educational Programs, and Federal Grants. By 1978, she was ready to counter massive predictions and win the Council-At-Large seat against eight opponents. Only 38, she will be with us for some time.

## In This Issue . . .

- Whitehurst Freeway access ramps may soon be feeding traffic into Foggy Bottom. Commissioner Jon Nowick writes about this D.C. DOT Proposal.

- What can Foggy Bottom residents do about airplane noise and pollution? Lawrence Phillips tells us of the efforts of the Coalition of Airport Problems.

- Bill Lattin instructs us on how to rejuvenate a tubbed plant's root system and muses on the siren calls of our local birds.

- June Haley recaps the presentation of Jim Gibson on new zoning proposals for hotels and residential districts.

- Fox von Boon summarizes the drama of Columbia Plaza between the tenants' association and a possible buyer.

- How effective can the ANC be on housing problems? See Rich Churchill's article.

- See the Foggy Bottom Bulletin Board for several announcements of interest to senior citizens, notably several meetings at St. Stephens.

- Differing points of view over editorial policy lead to resignation by Al Cottrell and Mary Healy. Read Ellie Becker's article and the summary of January's meeting.

- A poem from Beatrice Landes on the coming decade.

- Dining out à la Spain. An impression of the Café de Artistas by Maureen Mosher.

Catharine Worth  
Editor

## Proposed Whitehurst Freeway Linkup

by Jon Nowick

The Whitehurst Freeway may soon be playing an increasingly pronounced role in the lives of many Foggy Bottom residents.

Under a new D.C. government proposal, some unused access ramps from the Freeway would be linked up near a quiet residential neighborhood around 26th Street, transforming that area into a major traffic thoroughfare.

The proposal comes as part of a D.C. Department of Transportation study on transportation needs in the greater Georgetown area.

DOT apparently intends the new ramps to offer commuters a more convenient route to downtown M Street and thus relieve traffic congestion in Georgetown.

The ramps in question are currently unconnected and located just west of 26th Street over Rock Creek Park. One of them, an exit ramp, curves down from the Whitehurst Freeway along the 900-block of 26th Street and comes to a halt in a park next to that street.

The other one, an entrance ramp, begins several yards beyond the western end of the 2600-block of L Street. Both ramps would be linked up to the 2600-block of L Street.

The proposal also calls for the elimination of all on-street parking on that block of L Street and on the 1100-block of 26th Street, next to the Westbridge condominium.

The Westbridge owners have recently applied for residential parking for 26th Street. The proposal would turn it into a heavily trafficked access route.

To increase traffic flows at the other end of the Whitehurst Freeway as well, the proposal calls for redesigning the access ramps connecting it to Key Bridge.

DOT's proposal has already sparked concern among some individuals and condominium associations in the 26th Street area.

One of these individuals, Lucille Duprat of the Potomac Overlook Condominium, is circulating a petition and encouraging a letter campaign against the proposal. According to Ms. Duprat, the National Capital Planning Commission not long ago prepared a staff study which proposed quite a different use for the access ramps — transforming portions of them into an attractive pedestrian mall.

The Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, in its meeting of February 5, also expressed strong reservations about the proposal and urged that it not be implemented.

A resolution passed by the ANC warned that the proposal would:

- Destroy the character of the neighborhood on and around 26th Street between Eye and M Streets, by increasing traffic congestion, noise, air pollution, and hazards to pedestrians;
- Eliminate at least 27 on-street parking spaces, sorely needed by neighborhood residents and businesses alike;
- Ruin a large part of the park along the 900- and 1000-blocks of 26th Street by the excavation work required to connect the exit ramp; and,
- Conflict with other policies designed to discourage automobile use and encourage the use of mass transit.

The D.C. Department of Transportation is now welcoming public comment on the proposed Whitehurst Freeway changes.

Your views should be addressed to Mr. Douglas Schneider, Director, D.C. Department of Transportation, 415-12th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20004.

Letters can also be sent to Mayor Marion Barry and D.C. Councilman John Wilson, both at the District Building, Washington, D.C. 20004.

## Airplane Noise and Pollution

by Lawrence A. Phillips

Many people in Foggy Bottom and others living up and down the Potomac River from Cabin John to Mount Vernon have complained for many years about the noise of jetliners flying into and out of National Airport. They have been concerned also about pollution, safety, and the congestion due to the overuse of the airport.

The new Secretary of Transportation, Neil Goldschmidt, has issued a proposed policy designed

to limit air traffic and reduce noise and congestion. A public hearing will be held on this proposed policy some time in March. Anyone wishing to express an opinion on the plan has until April 15 to do so. At some point after April 15, the Secretary will issue his official policy. Whatever that policy may be, it no doubt will remain in effect for some time to come. This, therefore, is a very crucial period.

The FBA has joined with some 125 area civic groups in an umbrella organization called Coalition of Airport Problems (CAP). Many of these groups have been in the trenches for a long time battling this. They will apply their considerable experience and expertise in analyzing the proposed policy and in presenting a strong and unified position by this Coalition. CAP has already expressed

(Continued on page 7)



# Foggy Bottom Bulletin Board

## Resources for the Elderly

On Sunday, February 24, 1980 and Sunday, March 2, 1980 speakers representing Catholic social concerns organizations and the District of Columbia will describe the resources available to the elderly in the District. The meetings will take place in the Parish Hall of St. Stephen Martyr Roman Catholic Church, 25th and Pennsylvania, N.W., at noon on each Sunday. There is no charge, and all are welcome.

Speakers on February 24, 1980, will be Mrs. Elizabeth Fox, Director of Christian Communities Committed to Change, a consortium of 10 Catholic parishes in Upper Northwest, providing a variety of housing services and other services for the elderly, and Mr. Ralph Schaeffer, representing Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. Mrs. Fox and Mr. Schaeffer will focus on resources available to the elderly through the Catholic Church, but will also address themselves to the wider resources available in the District.

Speakers on March 2, 1980, will be Councilman John Wilson, who represents Ward 2, including the Foggy Bottom area, in the City Council, and Mr. Art Lawson, of the Office on Aging of the District government. They will focus on the opportunities and resources for the elderly that the District now provides, that it plans to provide, and that it should provide.

## Lenten Organ Recitals

A series of Lenten Organ Recitals will be presented at Western Presbyterian Church, 1906 H Street, N.W. each Thursday, February 21st through April 3rd, at 12:15 p.m. The public is cordially invited.

The following well-known area organists will participate in this recital series:

February 28	Stephen Ackert St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
March 6	William Neil Washington Street United Methodist Church
March 6	Johnnye Egnot St. James Episcopal Church
March 20	Stephen Dunn The United Church
March 27	Sondra Proctor Westmoreland Congregational Church
April 3	Frederick C. North II John Calvin Presbyterian Church

## Paralegal Training

Washington area residents who are 55 years or older may now register for the next session of the Paralegal Training for Seniors program, which begins March 10 at the George Washington University National Law Center.

The one-year certificate program, offered by the Institute of Law and Aging at GW, is the only one in the metropolitan area designed especially for senior citizens. The program provides older persons with the skills necessary to give competent paralegal and social service assistance to other senior citizens.

Courses, which include traditional classroom instruction and "on-the-job" training, focus on legal research and writing, basic principles of administrative law, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, family law, taxes, trusts and estates, health care, disability, and pensions.

For further information and registration, call the GW Institute of Law and Aging at 676-4869.

## Meditation and Art

The Sri Chinmoy Center is offering a free course on meditation techniques and meditation as it relates to art, music, poetry and athletics. Classes are meeting every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. through April in Room 426 of the George Washington University Marvin Center, at the intersection of 21st and H Streets.

Sri Chinmoy directs a meditation group at the United Nations in New York and has had a center operating here in Washington since 1972. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature in 1975 and 1976 and will have an exhibit of paintings at this year's Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. For further information, call 342-9891.

## League of Women Voters Programs

All units of the D.C. League of Women Voters will meet at the Council of Governments, 1875 Eye St., N.W. on February 21. The daytime meeting starts at 10 a.m. with a repeat meeting at 6 p.m. The meetings will deal with area-wide programs of the Council (COG); Mass transit, sewage disposal, air pollution, and metropolitan area. The meetings are free and open to the public. Call 785-2616, Ruth Dixon, President.

The League of Women Voters has recently published a leaflet, "The Government We Deserve." It includes a capsule history of the D.C. elections since the beginning of home rule and gives complete information and instructions on voter registration and the election process in our city. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to D.C. League of Women Voters, 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, for a copy. Additional copies cost 5¢ each, \$3 per 100.

## Lisner at Noon

Lisner at Noon, the series of free cultural samplings offered the community by George Washington University, has resumed on Tuesday. The free, half-hour programs will be given in Lisner Auditorium, 21st and H Streets, N.W., beginning at 12:15 p.m. The auditorium is a short walk from the Foggy Bottom/GWU Metro Station at 23rd and Eye Streets, N.W.

## Conference on Death

The fifth annual conference on death — a holistic perspective — will be held here on March 20-22, 1980, at the National Presbyterian Center.

The Conference, sponsored by the St. Francis Center, will open on Thursday, March 20, at 8:00 p.m., with a speech, "Life, Death and Transition," by Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, leading authority in the field of death and dying. Dr. Kubler-Ross is the author of the basic work in the field, "On Death and Dying," as well as a number of other books and papers on the subject. She also conducts workshops on death, illness and bereavement at her teaching and health center in California.

The other major speaker at the conference will be Dr. Gerald Jampolsky, a psychiatrist, who is founder and director of the Center for Attitudinal Healing. Dr. Jampolsky is widely known for his work with children facing catastrophic illness and his theme, "Teach Only Love, For That Is What You Are," will be developed by children from the center. He will speak on Friday, March 21, at 8:00 p.m.

There will be eight workshops on Friday and a conference evaluation session on Saturday morning. The conference is open to the general public. Additional information and conference costs are available from St. Francis Center, 1768 Church Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

## Third Annual Easter Seal Walkathon

The Epsilon Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity at the George Washington University will sponsor the Third Annual Eastern Seal Walkathon for the benefit of the D.C. Society for Crippled Children on Saturday, March 1, 1980. Kevin James, disc jockey at radio station WKYS, will be the honorary chairman for the event.

The purpose of the Walkathon is to help the D.C. Society to continue to provide diagnostic and treatment services for handicapped children in the Washington area. Last year's event raised over \$40,000.

Anyone interested in participating or desiring further information may call Darla Davenport of the D.C. Society at 232-2342.

## St. Mary's Court Administrator To Represent Ward 2

All of Foggy Bottom and West End will be pleased to hear that Barbara Brunton, Administrator of St. Mary's Court, has been named to represent Ward 2 on the D.C. Commission on Aging. Ms. Brunton's appointment, expiring in 1982, assures that the problems of older persons will be well understood and capably addressed.

—Steve Levy

## Letters

Dear Miss Worth:

I have, as usual, read FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS from beginning to end and, while we were the first and sole occupants of the Plaza Condominium for almost nine months five years ago, I really know very little about the area except for what I read in the NEWS.

However, quite by accident, I did meet Dorothy Arnold (Mrs. Henry Arnold) who is a doll house and miniature enthusiast like myself. Dort used to write a cooking column for your paper. I am wondering now if there are any other miniature enthusiasts in the neighborhood. I would love to get in touch, if that is possible. Could you help me?

I also noted somewhere in the latest issue an inquiry about the helicopters in the area. I remember some months ago one going over for an hour or more with lights shining on the Virginia Ave. side of our flat. I called the police department and they told me it was one of their copters looking for a burglar or attacker from the Watergate. Frankly, I haven't heard any lately. Perhaps we are too sound-proofed or I sleep too well.

By the way, I wish they had not changed the name of this condo from Foggy Bottom to Plaza. The first was more interesting and the second causes confusion with all the plazas in the area.

Sincerely

Mrs. Thomas E. Jenks  
800 25th Street

*Our thanks to Mrs. Jenks for her information about helicopters. Those Foggy Bottomites interested in doll houses and miniatures, please get in touch with Mrs. Jenks. — CW*

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## Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

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All announcements, letters, articles, etc., welcome but must be typed.

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24th & L Sts., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20037

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

1979-80 OFFICERS

Acting President)	John Landgraf
Vice President )	
Secretary .....	June Haley
Treasurer .....	Melvin Ogden

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eleanor Becker, Robert Charles, Mary Healy, Anne Lomas, Pamela Mack, Virginia Mulroy, Robert Niemiec, Jonathan Nowick, Catharine Worth.



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466-2626

Puglisi Barber Shop  
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337-4469

Watergate Barber Shop  
Watergate Mall  
333-0145

Watergate Hairstylist  
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333-3488; 333-0380

### Apparel

AFAF Boutique  
Watergate-Les Champs  
338-8155

Batik Walla  
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965-9331

Cerruti 1881  
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338-0830

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333-7200

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965-1700

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FE7-1330

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337-4200

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Gauche  
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1715 G St  
393-0339

Park Laundry  
2423 Penn Ave  
333-5077

Watergate Valet  
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337-7570

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1710 G St  
789-2277

Crown Books  
21st & K St  
659-2030

Globe Book Shop  
1700 Penn Ave  
393-1490

Gov't Book Store  
1776 Penn Ave  
524-9928

Moonstone Bookcellars Inc  
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659-2600

Reiter's Student Book Co.  
2121 Penn Ave  
223-3327

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Art's Printing &  
Duplicating  
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337-3018

Colorfax Laboratories, Inc.  
2107 L St  
833-1777

Consolidated Photo Copy  
1114 21st St  
452-1480

Graphic Data Print Shop  
2022 M St  
296-8004

Goetz Printing Co  
2419 M St  
331-7030

National Camera  
1740 Penn Ave  
737-1740

Photo Fair Inc.  
2026 M St  
331-7030

Photo Fair III  
2141 K St  
659-8580

Potomac Photo Supply Inc.  
1754 Penn Ave  
393-5353

Professional Printing, Inc.  
2011 K St  
331-9030

Spee Dee-Que Duplicating  
Service  
2307 M St  
333-7111

### Movie Houses

Circle Theatre  
2105 Penn Ave  
331-7480

Inner Circle Theatre  
2105 Penn Ave  
331-7480

Continued on page 4

1980

It's the start of a new decade  
The chance for fresh plans to be made  
The time to ponder and assess  
The qualities we possess  
To these very ends  
Take stock my friends  
Are we pleased with our  
mental, physical  
emotional, moral  
political, economical  
spiritual, education  
familial or potential  
state?

Can we for ourselves, a small world make  
Or should our efforts a wider scope take?  
We cannot in isolation live  
Of ourselves we must learn to give  
To make the world somewhat better  
So that chains of tyranny do not fetter.  
To this end, work we must  
Lest our planet turns to dust.

Beginning thus the year Nineteen-eighty  
Perhaps problems can become less weighty.

— Beatrice B. Landes

*Due, perhaps, to the vagaries of holiday mail, this poem did not arrive in time to be typeset for the January issue. But starting a new decade, being as significant as it is, it still is most appropos. Our thanks to Beatrice Landes for her thoughts. —CW*

### Cottrell, Healy Resign Landgraf Acting President

by Ellie Becker

At the January 28 FBA meeting, Al Cottrell, FBA President, and Board Member Mary E. Healy submitted their resignations following disagreements with the Executive Board over the editorial policy of the *Foggy Bottom News*. A motion to table the resignations was unanimously adopted. Vice President John Landgraf is acting as president; the Executive Board will meet soon to review the issue.

The resignations followed the rejection by the FBN Editor of a small article submitted by Healy for the January issue. Healy explained to the editor her reasons for wanting the article published; the editor, however, maintained her original decision.

Due to the nearness of the January deadline, the issue was immediately put before the Editorial Committee and then the Executive Board. Both groups supported the editor's decision. The Executive Board vote on a resolution to print the article in question was 2 votes for, 4 against, and 2 abstentions (5 Board members were absent, but two of those absent had expressed support for the editor's decision).

The Executive Board will meet shortly to consider appropriate action. Also under consideration will be the subject of drafting written guidelines for the *News*, outlining in some detail the responsibilities and authority of all parties concerned in the production of the paper.

### Three Very Important Persons

The news article written by the undersigned on the resignations of Al Cottrell and Mary Healy did not lend itself to subjective comments, hence this additional one. Both are written by a longtime FBA member, presently serving on the Executive Board and the Editorial Committee, who also served for several years as *FBN* Editor.

The hurried decisions which had to be made in this case were difficult ones. Seldom are problems such as this solved under such extreme pressure — and we all felt that pressure, and the tension.

We are going to solve this problem. We have no choice.

The FBA needs all three of these willing and hardworking people. Al Cottrell devotes an enormous amount of time and attention to Association business, much more than any but another president knows. Mary Healy, too, is and has been an indefatigable Board member, contributor, and all-around booster of our community. And our fine paper, the best of its kind, needs the editor, Catharine Worth, who does a professional job on a volunteer basis with strictly volunteer help.

They are all striving for the same objective, a better *Foggy Bottom*. We'll find a way to keep them all at it!

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# Federal Funds for Utility Bills

The District has received more than \$1.3 million in federal grant funds to help low-income residents offset the costs of high heating and utility bills this winter. Nearly \$3 million in additional grant funds is anticipated.

The District has received two grants from the federal Community Services Administration (CSA) — an initial \$747,212 and a second grant of \$580,000 based on more recent federal legislation. The District also has been notified that it can anticipate receiving \$3.04 million out of a national \$792 million grant program to be operated by the federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

The grant funds are expected to help several thousand lower-income District families meet the high costs of fuel oil and other utility costs this winter. The CSA funds will be made available to citizens through the United Planning Organization (UPO), the city's anti-poverty agency. The District will determine in the near future how the HEW funds will be distributed.

This year's program commits by far the largest of several federal

grants to the District to help residents meet utility costs.

The Office of Planning and Development's Energy Unit will send the CSA grant money through to UPO. Any person with an income up to 125 percent of the official federal poverty level may apply for assistance with any utility bill, on a one-time basis, up to a \$400 maximum.

The maximum incomes range from \$4,250 for a single person to \$11,125 for a family of six, with an additional \$1,375 added for each additional family member over six. The maximum for a family of four is \$8,375.

**D.C. Energy Director Chuck Clinton said a special effort will be made to reach elderly persons, and tenants who are faced with substantial increases in utility bills or rent pass-throughs.**

Persons who would like to determine their eligibility for the assistance or who would like to apply may do so at the main UPO office, 1021 14th Street, N.W., or through any of the UPO neighborhood development centers. Interested persons may also call 628-3181, the Energy Unit hotline, for more information.

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Repair Inc.  
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331-7736

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331-9119

Olympia Auto Center  
2445 M St  
695-5050

Washington Auto Supply  
2009 M St  
331-7220

Washington Circle Exxon  
2600 Penn Ave  
337-1390

Watergate Exxon  
2708 Virginia Ave  
338-7739

## Other Services

Amerasia Center  
2136 F St

The American Spirit  
Watergate-Les Champs  
338-2818

Angelo's Bargain Corner  
1147 22nd St  
223-5430

Arirang Curios  
Watergate-Les Champs  
338-0779

Art in Fiber  
Watergate-Les Champs

BZ Fabrics  
Watergate Mall  
965-1616

Compton Jewelers  
1709 G St  
393-2570

Cort Furniture Rental  
1240 20th St  
773-3300

Craftsmen of Chelsea Court  
2549 Virginia Ave  
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2121 Virginia Ave  
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# THE URBAN CRITIC

## Unpublicized FB Drama Fox von Boom

There is much unpublicized drama in Foggy Bottom apartment-condominium conversions. There are success stories and stories of failure. The story of the Conwit conversion was a success from the standpoint of a tenants association being able to purchase its building and control its future. To date, Columbia Plaza tenants have not been successful in purchasing their five-building complex and in controlling the cost of apartments. Their representatives were late in meeting the offer of the Canadian firm whose suit to be named to be

named the rightful owner was upheld in D.C. Court. An appeal is pending.

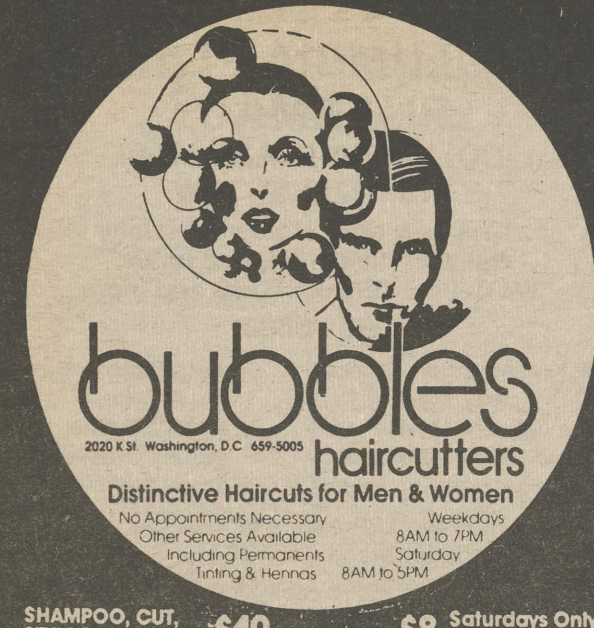
At press time, negotiations between the CP Tenants Association and the new Canadian owners continue. In view of the present lack of control of the future of the development by the CP Tenants Association, there are many rumors. One rumor is that one Columbia Plaza buildings is being considered for conversion to a hotel.

On Saturday, February 2nd, an ad hoc informational committee of the Columbia Plaza tenants

listened to Robert H. Taylor of the Bonwit describe the process of their associations' purchase of their building. Later Jonathan H. Nowick, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner explained current and pending apartment-to-hotel conversion regulations. There appears to be much uncertainty concerning the future of these regulations.

Despite the appeal pending on the D.C. Court decision to uphold the Canadian firm's right of ownership, no CP tenants have voiced optimism concerning an appeal favoring the association.





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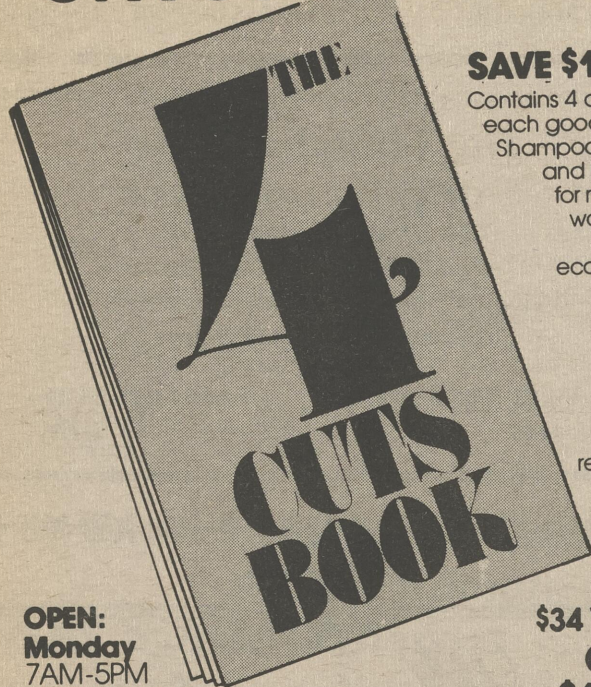
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## What Can One Person Do

by Richard Churchill

The January meeting of our Advisory Neighborhood Commission was routine. Another crisis threatened to displace hundreds of tenants in the Foggy Bottom Area. This time the issue was Zoning Case 79-1. The specifics of the case can be explained elsewhere. I would like to answer a question many people asked that night: How effective is the ANC or any individual in stopping commercial development of residential areas? The answer is not easy. First let's review the basic strategy of our ANC.

The ANC is committed to preserve as much residential housing as possible. They do this in a number of ways: The first is asking developers to submit their plans to the ANC so both have a better understanding for what is best for the neighborhood. Secondly, when developers submit their plans to the Board of Zoning Adjustment and Zoning Commission, the ANC attends and testifies at these meetings. This assures a full and open review of what the developers intend to do. Thirdly, the ANC assists any apartment group in organizing into a tenant association. These actions slow down the developers. This is critical, for it creates the time the ANC needs to influence the changing of laws.

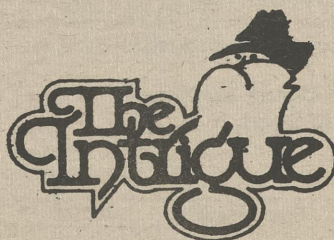
Most people do not come to the ANC for help until demolition or conversion plans have started. At this point the ANC does not have enough time to stop developers or landlords but only delay their action. This is hardly the solace people want.

"Our ANC is only as good as the people it represents." That answer came from the meeting, and if it sounds rhetorical maybe we've lived in Washington too long. Nevertheless the words are true. Unlike landlords and developers, our ANC cannot pay people to research, write, and present opinions at zoning hearings. All work is voluntary and there is always more work than people.

What can one person do? We can see what one landlord can do but we cannot imagine what one tenant can do. But remember an individual's voice and vote count more now than ever before. Each citizen has the ability to create

*Continued on page 7*

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# Dining Out A La Spain

by Maureen Mosher

One evening, my friend and I decided to try a new French Cafe that had opened up in Georgetown, the Café de Artistas. Being a relatively new restaurant, it was not listed in the phone book and we had to drive along M Street until we spotted it, almost directly across from the K-B Cerebus.

A menu at the Café was posted outside the entrance and, to our surprise and delight, we discovered this was a Spanish Café! I should have suspected as much with the additional accent on the "Artistas." Not being a French café explained the wonderfully low prices for dinner, ranging from \$3 to a high of \$8.

Happy with our inexpensive find, we began to climb the narrow flight of stairs to the Café. But on reaching the top there was no Café! On our left, the stairs continued on into a dark void; to our right, was a tiny art studio, fill with a grand total of 10 brightly lit paintings. Within a few minutes, a darkly clad "official-looking" man walked over to us from the art studio. We learned from him that the Café was on the other side through the art studio.

The sight that greeted us, one of the most delightful I've seen in a long time: A moderately small semi-lit room filled with plump hanging plants greeted our eyes. The bar was lined with several lavender wool chairs enveloped with a soft glow from the lighting below a glass floor. A patio for outdoor dining lay beyond two large sliding glass doors on the opposite end of the room. A grand piano sat between the bar and the long narrow rows of tiny black tables and chairs.

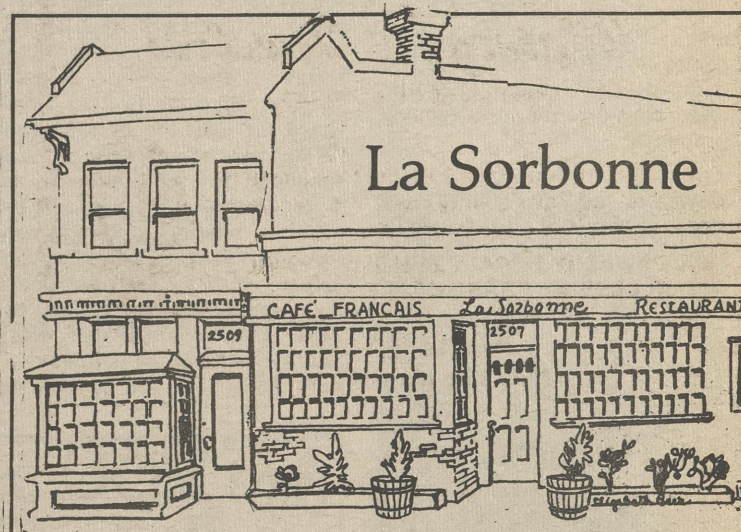
As we sat down at a table for

two (the largest table in the room accommodates four), we found the chairs unusually comfortable. Being of rather short stature, for me to find such chairs in a restaurant is a rare accomplishment! I noticed that the walls of the room were lined with paintings similar to those in the art studio. Most of the paintings were brightly colored, depicting tropical scenes and had a surrealistic hue to them, which fit in well with the chrome and glass setting.

In a very short time, our waitress appeared dressed in a modest stylish black and white uniform. I ordered a chicken salad sandwich with a side order of black beans and rice while my friend ordered chicken in wine sauce which came with a green salad topped with a house dressing. Although the chicken salad sandwich left a bit to be desired, the black beans and rice were excellent and a "steal" priced at \$1.95. We ordered a half carafe of white wine with our dinner and my friend finished off her meal with a custard pudding with caramel sauce and espresso. My bill came to \$6 with tip, and hers to \$8 with tip.

My only complaint about the Café is that the service is a bit too quick. We had to carefully guard our unfinished plates from being snatched away by an overzealous busboy and our waitress. All in all, about three "attempts" were made on our plates in the course of the evening.

About the time we left, 8:30 p.m. on a Sunday night, a pianist arrived and began to play soft dinner music. It was a pity to leave at that time, but we vowed to come back again to listen as well as dine.



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## New D.C. Zoning Commission Proposals Outlined at the FBA Monthly Meeting

by June Haley, FBS Secretary

New proposals for city planning and development now before the D.C. Zoning Commission were outlined by James O. Gibson at the Foggy Bottom Association monthly meeting on January 28. Mr. Gibson, the Assistant City Administrator for Planning and Development, told the standing-room-only audience that the proposals had caused concern in the area because they would make the conversion of some apartment buildings into hotels easier; however, he assured the Foggy Bottom residents that other aspects of the proposals would protect their interests.



Mr. Gibson described Foggy Bottom as a highly developed, high density area, a community composed of housing interspersed with structures for institutional and business use — and highly prestigious to the overall complexion of the District of Columbia.

The Department of Planning and Development, he said, wants to provide a long-term view of the city for guidance in future planning. The city has been experiencing a period of reinvestment. Absence of planning has led to problems with density. The department is now trying to bring to a slow-down issues brought before the Zoning Commission that should more properly be reviewed in a city-wide perspective.

### The Zoning Proposals

Nate Gross, the D.C. Community Planner, who had accompanied Mr. Gibson to the meeting, outlined the major categories under consideration in the zoning proposals.



**Residential:** If the proposals now before the Zoning Commission are adopted, new hotel conversion would be prohibited in residential areas. This includes Virginia Avenue in the Foggy Bottom area. Conversion of the apartment building at 925-25th Street, N.W. to a hotel is now frozen and will remain frozen if the proposals are adopted. Conversion of all apartments to hotels is currently frozen until April 1, 1980 under an emergency law adopted by the Zoning Commission.

**Special Purposes:** The special purposes area includes Columbia Plaza, the Watergate complex, and the Department of State area. Conversions have been extremely widespread in this area, Mr. Gross said, and currently are permitted with the advance approval of the Board of Zoning Adjustment. The recommendations now before the Zoning Commission would prohibit any further conversion in this area.

**Commercial Zones:** Major arterial areas are classified as commercial zones and conversions and new hotel development are permitted as a matter of right in arterial areas. In Foggy Bottom this includes 24th to 26th Streets on Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Gross said that the major arterial areas were determined from a 1980 classification of city street maps with federal guidelines.

The zoning proposals were presented to the Zoning Commission at its January 17 meeting and have been under review by the commission, which will make its decision at the next regular monthly meeting on February 14. The meeting is open to public attendance but not to public participation. It will be held in Room 11-A in the District Building at 1:30 p.m.

### Other Agenda Items

Lt. M. J. Vabo and Sgt. B. J. Parker, of the Metropolitan Police Department, reported on criminal incidents that had occurred in the neighborhood during the past month.

They urged the residents working in the area to exercise all possible caution because of an increase in office larceny in surrounding business establishments. Sgt. Parker said anyone interested in statistics on crime in the area could call the D.C. Crime Analysis Bureau at 282-0070.

The question of editorial control of the *Foggy Bottom News* was raised at the meeting. Mary Healy, a member of the FBA Executive Board and author of the *Foggy Bottom News* column, "Seen Around the Bottom," protested the rejection by the editor of the news of an article she had submitted for publication by an 8-year-old boy, the son of an FBA member, relating to energy conservation. The issue was brought before the *News* Editorial Board and, subsequently, before the FBA Executive Board. Both boards sustained the editor's decision, which resulted in the announcement at the monthly meeting of the resignation of Ms. Healy from the FBA Executive Board. Her resignation was followed by that of FBA President Al Cottrell. In a letter to the Secretary, President Cottrell said, "In view of the rejection by the Executive Board of the Association of certain concepts and related resolutions presented by me for their consideration, I conclude that I can no longer serve effectively as President of the FBA."

There was reluctance among those present at the meeting to consider the two resignations. The members felt that the complexity of the issues demanded further investigation, and if needed further clarification of the editorial guidelines of the *Foggy Bottom News*. As a result a motion was unanimously approved to hold the two resignations in abeyance until one more meeting of the FBA Executive Board could be convened to review the issue.

President Cottrell moved the meeting on with an announcement of good news. The Metro Transit service has agreed to restore the service of one bus on Route 81 — to be effective April 1980.

Foggy Bottom residents were reminded a petition requesting Home Rule in the District was being circulated at the meeting, and that information on the selection of delegates for the national political conventions was also available at the meeting.

New mercury street lights are being installed in the 2400 block of Eye Street, N.W. for a trial period. Residents' responses were requested on acceptance or rejection of the new lights, and the FBA will carry a survey in the *News*.

President Cottrell also reported on an effort of the FBA to prevail upon George Washington University to expand the handicap ramp to the Metro, just recently installed, to a "two-way street." As the ramp is now constructed, it can only be approached from 23rd Street. The handicapped person approaching the Metro from the West, 24th Street, or New Hampshire Avenue, must go beyond the handicapped elevator toward 23rd Street and return back to the center of the block — doubling their efforts. George Washington University has advised the FBA that it is trying to find a way to comply with this request to extend the ramp to the 24th Street approach as well as from the 23rd Street entrance, although already considerably over budget.

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## Airplane Noise & Pollution

(Continued from page 1)

serious doubts that the Secretary's plan will meet the objectives.

The FBA National Airport Noise Committee will cooperate with CAP in its reaction to the proposal. This Committee will also develop recommendations for FBA's comments to the Director, Metropolitan Washington Airports.

Another related development is that the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are engaged in a cooperative study to test and evaluate alternative flight path configurations that may further reduce the impacts of aircraft noise on citizens in the Washington area. This reporter met on January 30 with representatives of COG to ascertain developments thus far in this study and to present the Foggy Bottom viewpoint.

These representatives intend to propose some type of study to be made of flights to the north of the airport, and recommendations will be made to COG in March.

The Foggy Bottom position presented to the COG representatives was that the serious noise problem in this area is due to a high percentage of planes flying directly over or close to Kennedy Center and Watergate, most at low altitudes. Greater utilization of the river and open spaces was proposed, as was a modified take-off procedure to gain altitude more rapidly before reaching the FB area. The COG representatives were most receptive and responsive. They recognized the problem and believed the Foggy Bottom proposals merit consideration.

The FBA committee has recommended that the FBA prepare a petition to COG setting forth (1) FBA's position, as stated above, and (2) requesting COG to include the FBA problem in any study or test of alternative flight patterns that COG undertakes with FAA. This petition could then be circularized among FB residents for signature and submitted to COG prior to its March meeting with FAA.

It is important that we take this opportunity to express our feelings to COG. Everyone concerned about this problem should be sure to sign the petition.

## What Can One Person Do?

(Continued from page 5)

change whether by petition, letter, phone call or personal appearance. What can one person do? Plenty, but first you have to use your power, and use it before the problem reaches the crisis level. In a sense, the people living along Pennsylvania Avenue who are affected by Zoning Case 79-1 are lucky for their problem can still be remedied by legislation.

## New Director Named for AFI

Foundation executive and education administrator Jean Firstenberg has been appointed Director of The American Film Institute, it was announced at a press conference today by AFI Co-Chairmen Charlton Heston and George Stevens, Jr.

Ms. Firstenberg has spent her career in the communications and media fields, and since 1976 has been an executive with the Markle Foundation in New York, where she was responsible for the design of grants to encourage innovation in film and television. Prior to her work there, she was Director of Publications Office at Princeton University.

Ms. Firstenberg began her three-year appointment as AFI Director on January 1, taking over from Mr. Stevens, who has headed the Film Institute since its founding 12 years ago. Mr. Stevens will continue to serve AFI as Co-chairman.

As Director of The American Film Institute, Firstenberg will be responsible for the initiation and supervision of all Institute programs, for the motivation and guidance of its Board of Trustees and professional staff in raising funds to support these programs, and for maintaining the Institute's leadership role as a point of focus and coordination for the film and television arts in the United States.

The American Film Institute was founded in 1967 "to advance the art of film and television in the United States, and to serve as a point of focus and coordination for progress in the film arts." In the past 12 years, in fulfillment of that mandate, the Institute has evolved a chain of interacting programs which include: an archival program to insure the preservation of America's film and television heritage; the Center for Advanced Film Studies for the training of talented new filmmakers; a National Education Services program to serve the field of film and television education and provide information to the country at large and the 90,000 members of the AFI; the Independent Filmmaker Program which assists new artists with production grants; a model repertory cinema, the AFI Theater in the Kennedy Center; and *AMERICAN FILM*, the Magazine of the Film and Television Arts, now in its fourth year of publication.

## Super Concrete to Remain in District

Super Concrete was recently displaced from its sites on the Georgetown waterfront and in northeast Washington from which it operated for 51 years. The planned move to Prince George County would have left the District without a ready-mix concrete facility inside its boundaries. Through arrangements spearheaded by the District's Office of Business and Economic Development (OBED), the Super Concrete Corporation will remain in the District.

"Retaining businesses which employ District residents and bring substantial revenue to the city is

one of the major reasons the Office of Business and Economic Development was established. We have had excellent cooperation among the District, private and federal groups in this effort," the Mayor said.

A \$625,000 conventional 25-year mortgage from the Riggs National Bank, a \$500,000 25-year second mortgage from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and \$125,000 in business equity and city economic development funds will enable the company to consolidate operations at a new site in the District. The D.C. Development Corporation will also provide a \$31,500 loan under the Housing Department's C-D Block Grant Program. OBED and the National Development Council were instrumental in securing this joint financing.

During 1978, Super Concrete paid more than \$142,000 in sales tax, \$25,000 in property and inventory taxes. The firm employs 113 people, 36 of whom are District residents, and pays hourly wages ranging from \$7.90 to \$9.25. The firm has an affirmative action program and employs 54 minority workers.

"Super Concrete is a healthy, growing business. I understand that their sales were at \$9.5 million last year, a big jump from the year before. This company would be welcomed anywhere," the Mayor noted.

Super Concrete has already begun to consolidate its operations at the new 10.5 acre site at 221 Gallatin Street, N.E. The company estimates that it will save over \$58,000 in rent during the first year.

## Foggy Bottom Resident Mayoral Nominee

Despina Kaneles, President, Swarthmore Tenants' Association, has been nominated by the Mayor for a 2-year term as a public member of the Rental Accommodations Commission. Despina, an active resident of Foggy Bottom, is steering the Swarthmore tenants to ownership of their own apartments, an effort begun by Ann Loikow, our former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner.

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### Alexander Godunov to Appear in Washington

Alexander Godunov, who recently signed a contract to appear with American Ballet Theatre during the company's annual United States tour, has reached an agreement with American Ballet Theatre to appear during the company's spring season at the Kennedy Center, April 1-20.

American Ballet Theatre is currently in rehearsal at the American Ballet Theatre studios in New York in preparation for the company's winter tour.

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## Foggy Bottom Farmer

William S. Lattin

So many delights of spring would draw me from the seasonal chores of my container gardening. I wonder if the mallards that nest on the fringes of Rock Creek are back, or the kindbird that reigns over all birds near the foot of Virginia Ave. And I long to see and listen to the aerial choreography of the bank swallows that nest in the shoreline rocky crevices there. And the girl birds crewing the slim mahogany shells mirrored with the soft sky-reflected colors of early dawn.

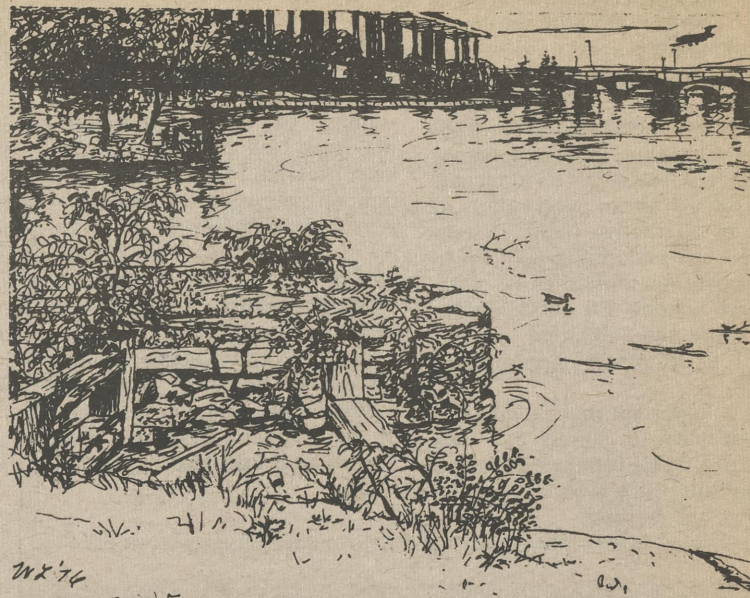
But work comes first and, happily, there are delights to savor in the doing. There are fragrances from the warming soil as I firm it back in place where the forces of winter's freezing has caused the heaving of a plant (either in tub or garden). And I can listen to spring's music while I work — the mockingbird's song of joy at the return of his mate from her Florida sojourn. Some ornithologists explain the seeming injustice of it by the need of the male to remain here to protect his territory (the dense evergreen magnolia and holly trees and some of the thorn trees).

This early in the season, soils are often too wet to work, preparing to take plants or seeds. Instead, I can listen for the soft whisper sounds of the starling's song which, like that of the mockingbird, is mimicry, but at a much lower key and more limited repertoire. But test the soil by dropping a lump of soil firmed into a ball with your hands; if the ball doesn't crumble upon impact, the soil is too wet for working. If forced, the working would make the soil less ready to receive plants

or seeds. The "working when it's wet" of soil results in an air-filled lumpiness that causes the harmful drying out of seeds and new rootlets.

Often overlooked in container gardening is the renovation of the container soil and the rejuvenation of the plant's root system. Simply, the process requires the removal of the old dead roots and replacing the much-exhausted soil with an enhanced growing medium (equal parts of light soil, peatmoss, and perlite, plus a balanced time-release fertilizer). **Caution:** The renovation should take place before rapid spring growth begins; now would be fine. Also, to insure that healthy but dry roots are not accidentally broken, water the tub well the day before removing the plant from the container. You'll need some help; tubbed plants are heavy.

Once out of the container, the plant root husbandry is identical to that of the annual treatment of the roots of the dwarfed container-grown trees (bonsai, as in bone). Carefully, and with a sharp, alcohol-sterilized knife, cut away the dead roots (black and brittle), being careful to protect the young roots (generally whitish or lighter in color, plumpish and limber). Then as your helper holds the plant upright on a bed of the new soil mixture, carefully add more of the new mixture by working it carefully between the roots. Compact the soil by watering (not by poking) and add more soil and water to the settlements. Guy the plant to the corners of the tub until the plant's new roots have well anchored it. *Voila! Il est fini!*



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